

NOTES ON LEPIDOPTERA IN THE ISLE OF MAN IN 1980. — Since the arrival of so many *Cynthia cardui* L. in June, this year has been disappointing. I was looking forward to an interesting Autumn brood, but only a few appeared. This situation seems to typify the Island. Migrant *Vanessa atalanta* L. for example, were more plentiful than usual earlier in the year but their progeny were quite scarce.

All the usual common moths turned up in my trap in reduced numbers. However, on October 29th, I found a fairly fresh specimen of *Lithophane ornitopus* Hufn. (Grey Shoulder Knot), which does not seem to have been recorded before from the Isle of Man. Earlier, on July 25th, a very good male of the beautiful pyralid *Pyrausta aurata* Scop. was among the 'catch'. This appears to be only the second record of the species from Man, the first being that of C. S. Gregson in 1893 (see Chalmers-Hunt, *The Butterflies and Moths of the Isle of Man*).

Curiously, after the wettest and coldest summer ever recorded here by our local Met. Office, we had the most astonishing second brood of *Lasiommata megaera* L. They were literally swarming. As a mere collector, and although I have examples from all over England, I could not resist taking a really superb series which were there for the asking.

One always looks forward to early November when sometimes *Mythimna unipuncta* Haw. (White-speck), *Rhodometra sacraria* L. (The Vestal) and *Orithonama obstipata* F. (The Gem) come here. This year nothing at all. In fact my total catch for the last three weeks has been one *Autographa gamma* L. (Silver Y) and one *Erannis defoliaria* L. (Mottled Umber). — JOHN HEDGES, Ballakeighen, Castletown, Isle of Man, 19.xi.1980.

THE COMMA: *Polygonia c-album* L. IN NORTH YORKSHIRE. — At 9.30 a.m., on 2nd September 1980, I came across a fine specimen of *Polygonia c-album* L. basking in the sunshine on an Elder bush in my garden, but it flew off as I approached. When I returned, at 1.30 p.m., it was feeding on buddleia and for several minutes, before it disappeared over the hedge, I was able to watch it at close range. I never saw it again, despite thorough, daily searching.

In the 1940's the species used to be frequent in this area, but in 1953 the last entry was made in the Scarborough Field Naturalists' Society Lepidoptera Record Book. Very few have been seen anywhere in Yorkshire since that time. — P. Q. WINTER, West End Farm, Muston, Filey, N. Yorks., YO14 0ES.

THE PAINTED LADY (*CYNTHIA CARDUI* L.) IN NUMBERS AT LIGHT AND OTHER NOTES ON ITS OCCURRENCE NEAR FILEY, YORKSHIRE IN 1980. — On 7th and 28th June I saw single *Cynthia cardui* L. on the edge of fields near Muston and on 13th July there was a very ragged specimen on the cliffs two miles south of Filey.